

WORLD / C1

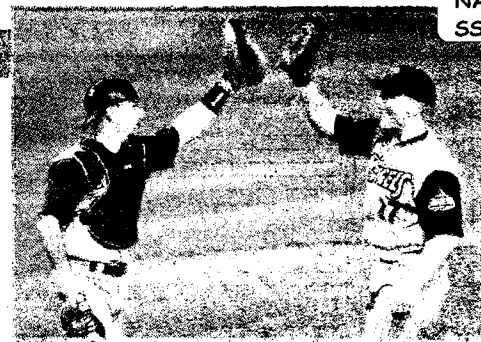
VOICES / D1

SPORTS / B

**Hurricane  
slams  
Fear**



**Bear necessities**  
What to do when  
a furball drops in



**Angels  
split; lead  
by three**

# PASADENA STAR-NEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1998

25¢ PLUS TAX

## M. City insists tap water is safe

**Councilman says it's not his cup of tea**

By Andrew Bridges  
STAFF WRITER

**PASADENA** — Despite claims to the contrary from a City Councilman, a city report issued this week said that Pasadena tap water is perfectly safe to drink.

The city's water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards, according to

a water-quality report presented Monday to the City Council.

"None of our water that we serve to our customers has ever exceeded contaminant levels," Rufus Hightower, general manager of the city's Department of Water and Power, told the council.

Councilman Bill Crowfoot was not convinced.

"I won't drink Pasadena water, frankly, first because it tastes

lousy, and second because I'm worried about where it comes from," he said.

The city acknowledges that at the source, the water is not necessarily pure as melted snow.

About 40 percent of Pasadena's water is drawn from 14 local wells. Eight of those wells show higher than permitted contaminant levels.

Please turn to WATER / A9



**'I won't drink Pasadena water, frankly, first because it tastes lousy, and second because I'm worried about where it comes from.'**

*Councilman Bill Crowfoot*

## JPL probe's mission: Seek life

## Temple Cit

tion it will cost to clean up the NASA facility's Superfund site. JPL has used chemicals in its operations since the 1930s, according to a federal report issued earlier this month.

Although JPL has been slapped with lawsuits over the contaminants, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report said the chemicals posed no public health hazard.

Pasadena's water, including that drawn from the Raymond Basin area that is fed by the Arroyo Seco, is tested monthly at the source and weekly at various distribution points in the city's state-approved lab, Hightower said. In addition, JPL funds a ground-water treatment plant behind Devil's Gate Dam.

"Our water is perfectly safe. It's unbelievable the detail we pay to it," Hightower said.

City spokeswoman Ann Erdman said staff is preparing a report that details what city resources, such as manpower and money, have been used regarding contamination problems associated with JPL.

## BURNED

Man seriously hurt while moving house

Continued from A1

to a lot on South Greenwood Avenue to make way for a new fire station, said Cheri McKay of Master Homemovers, the Encino-based company responsible for moving the structure. The new station will replace the temporary station at 1138 E. Del Mar Ave., she said.

The house is one of roughly three dozen moved from the area of the Pasadena campus since 1989, McKay said.

The Griffin Construction employee was riding about 20 feet above the ground in the cherry picker bucket when the incident occurred, Loney said. He did not know if the man fell to the ground after the accident.

Loney was also unsure how many volts jolted the man. Power lines in residential areas carry about 120 volts of power, said Frank Maldonado, director of operations for Charter Communications, a cable company serving the San Gabriel Valley. The cable company subcontracted Griffin Construction to assist in moving the house, said Charter Communication's

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## WATER

City report states  
it is safe to drink

Continued from A1

Those contaminants, including trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride and coliform bacteria, are reduced to what the government calls safe levels through treatment and by dilution with water from other sources before being piped to customers.

About 60 percent of the water in Pasadena's taps is from the Colorado River, purchased from the Metropolitan Water District. To pump the local water costs the city about

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*Rufus  
Hightower,  
water and  
power  
department  
manager*

Laboratory.

"I want to find out if the cleanup of JPL toxic waste is going as quickly as it could go," he said Wednesday.

JPL, without agreeing that it was the cause of or is at fault for any chemicals in the water, has paid so far about \$17 million of the estimated \$114 million it will cost to clean up the NASA facility's Superfund site. JPL has used chemicals in its operations since the 1930s, according to a federal report issued earlier this month.

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## PROJECT

Temple City officials  
hint at lawsuit

Continued from A1

center and another 9,500-square-foot retail building on the 12-acre site.

The project would be in El Monte, but the only access to and from will be through Temple City streets.

That has raised residents' concerns about traffic, automobile noise and pollution from Temple City residents and officials.

Temple City wants about 5 percent of the sales tax revenues its neighbor would get from Home Depot, said Hugh Riley, city manager for Temple City.

He said it's been estimated the store would generate \$430,000 to \$470,000 a year for El Monte.

Riley said their share, about \$20,000 a year, would be used to pay for street maintenance and police patrols.

Friend would not comment on how much sales tax the new store might generate, saying to do so is against company policy.

Harold Johanson, community development director for El Monte, didn't return two telephone calls on Wednesday.

At Tuesday's meeting, El

**Wick**  
FURNITURE

**EVE**

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\$90 an acre foot — the amount of water required to cover an acre of land 1 foot deep — while MWD water is \$452 for the same amount, Hightower said. Crowfoot said he had concerns about efforts to clean up toxic waste associated with the nearby Jet Propulsion

Laboratory.

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Monte City Administrator Gregory Korduner said the project will eradicate a blighted property, bring new jobs and provide other benefits to the two cities.

El Monte residents who spoke at Tuesday's meeting supported the project.

Several pointed out that the project is better than having an empty drive-in theater.

"I look at this in a positive way that will enhance both cities," said resident Joseph Hermes, who also owns property in Temple City.

According to an El Monte staff report, Home Depot made changes to the project because of concerns raised by Temple City officials, lawmakers and residents.

The changes proposed include reducing the size of one retail building from 26,000 to 9,500 square feet; moving the Home Depot building facility 15 feet east so a service road would be created for delivery trucks; and constructing a sound wall to reduce noise from the section of the project next to Ellis Lane.

Temple City will hold a neighborhood meeting 7 p.m. Sept. 3 at the Live Oak Community Center to brief residents and business owners on details of the agreement and answer questions about the Home Depot project.

— Staff Writer  
Hector Gonzalez  
contributed to this report.

**Wickes**  
FURNITURE

EVERYTHING

